

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - Film Music - Year 9

1. KEY IDEAS & CONCEPTS

2. Purpose	Music in a film is there to set the scene, enhance the mood, tell the audience things that the visuals cannot, or manipulate their feelings. Sound effects are <i>not</i> music!
3. Specially composed music	Some music is composed specially for a film. Much of this is broadly classical in style.
4. Borrowed music	Some music used in film soundtracks was composed for other (non-film) purposes, but is adopted for use in a film because it fits the film-maker's intentions.
5. Theme song	Sometimes a song, usually a pop song, is used as a theme song for a film. This helps with marketing and publicity .

6. KEY TERMS

7. Click Track	A click metronome heard by musicians through headphones as they record.
8. Cues	The parts of the film that require music . This is agreed between the director and the composer.
9. Diagetic	Music that is part of the action: the characters in the film can hear it.
10. Leitmotif	A short melody that is associated with a character or idea in a film.
11. Mickey Mousing	When the music fits precisely with a specific part of the action in a film.
12. Non-diagetic	Music that is <i>not</i> part of the action: the characters in the film cannot hear it . It is just for the audience.
13. Syncing / sync point	A precise moment where the timing of the music needs to fit with the action.
14. Underscore	Where music is played at the same time as the action or dialogue.

15. INSTRUMENTS & COMMON ASSOCIATIONS (Musical Cliché's)

16. Woodwind	Natural sounds such as bird song, animals, rivers
17. Bassoons	Sometimes used for comic effect (e.g. a drunkard)
18. Brass	Soldiers , war, royalty, ceremonial occasions
19. Tuba	Large and slow-moving things
20. Harp	Tenderness , love
21. Glockenspiel	Magic , music boxes, fairy tales
22. Timpani / Drums	War, fighting , thunder
23. Strings	Often used to portray emotions : passion, grief, etc.
24. Tremolo Strings	Tension , fear, drama

25. KEY COMPOSERS

26. Bernard Herrmann
27. John Williams
28. John Barry
29. Jerry Goldsmith
30. Hans Zimmer
31. James Horner
32. Danny Elfman
33. Alan Silvestri
34. Howard Shore

35. MUSICAL ELEMENTS & COMMON ASSOCIATIONS (Musical Cliché's)

36. Tempo	Fast	Excitement , action or fast-moving things (e.g. a chase scene)
	Slow	Contemplation , rest or slow-moving things (e.g. a funeral procession)
37. Melody	Ascending	Upward movement, or a feeling of hope (e.g. climbing a mountain)
	Descending	Downward movement, or feeling of despair (e.g. movement down a hill)
	Large Leaps	Distorted or grotesque things (e.g. a monster)
39. Harmony	Major	Happiness, optimism , success
	Minor	Sadness, seriousness (e.g. a character learns of a loved one's death)
	Dissonant	Scariness , pain, mental anguish (e.g. a murderer appears)
40. Rhythm & Metre	Strong sense of pulse	Purposefulness , action (e.g. preparations for a battle)
	Dance-like rhythms	Playfulness , dancing, partying (e.g. a medieval feast)
	Irregular rhythms	Excitement, unpredictability (e.g. a fast-moving fight)
	Rhythmic ostinato	Menace , tension (e.g. the countdown to an invasion)
41. Dynamics	Loud	Surprise , power, large things (e.g. a vast panorama)
	Soft	Gentleness , weakness, intimacy, small things (e.g. a new-born lamb)
	Crescendo / Diminuendo	Objects or events getting closer / objects getting further away